

Military Operations

The Zionist authorities are expressing growing concern at the increasing incidents of armed resistance in occupied Palestine. Our Palestinian masses are proving their unswerving determination to resist an occupation that has been compared to South African apartheid. (See box).

Israeli radio broadcasts, giving instructions and precautions to be taken, are common. They caution Israelis against walking unarmed, leaving their weapons in parked cars or giving hitchhikers lifts. An unprecedented number of Zionists are being stabbed in the occupied territories. The Zionist daily *Yediot Aharonot* reported 17 cases of such stabbings in the second half of 1985. Reports mention the new generation of Palestinians that grew up under occupation, as being the main ones carrying out these daring operations of shooting Zionists at close range or stabbings. On December 3rd, a Zionist committee, named «The Message of Jerusalem,» called for the formation of a 'civilian' police force to protect Israelis from the increasing attacks.

Millions of dollars are being spent on renovation of shelters and building new ones in the Galilee. The Zionist authorities are constantly brandishing threats of retaliation for resistance operations, but there are indications that the Israeli population is not satisfied. There are continuous signs of their weariness at the war of attrition. After a shelling of Kiryat Shmoneh settlement, near the Lebanese border, one settler said, «We don't want the IDF to return to Lebanon, but we appeal to the government to find a way to solve the problem, so we can live like the rest without the nightmare of missiles.» Israeli army commander Amnon Shahak admits, however, «We don't have magic solutions.»

A report from Reuters news agency stated, «These operations are not publicized internationally. However, they have definitely upset Israelis and caused them to stay away from Arab markets.» Joel Marcos, a commentator for the Israeli daily *Haaretz*, reports, «... (the resistance of Palestinians) has succeeded in hitting the Israeli nervous system.»

The Tourism Ministry admits a 20% drop in tourists. Many are cancelling reservations from abroad. Merchants in Bethlehem report a steep decline in

trade in 1985. A reporter from the Associated Press noted tens of tourists in comparison to hundreds the year before.

Following are some of the military operations carried out by Palestinian freedom fighters in occupied Palestine in late December and January:

On Dec. 23, the group of the martyr Fahd Qawasmeh blew up a chemical warehouse in Tel Aviv, causing extensive material damage.

On Dec. 25, four operations were carried out, in Afoula, Hadera (Al Khudaira - on the coast near Lydda and Ramleh), Jerusalem and Haifa. A time bomb exploded near a border police checkpoint in the center of Afoula, which was set up especially for searching Palestinians. Several persons were wounded at the checkpoint. Eyewitnesses reported ambulances rushing to the scene, but the Zionist police mentioned no casualties although they reported the incident.

In Al Khudaira, explosives went off in the main electricity generator. A military spokesman on Israeli radio acknowledged the operation as well as the death of an Israeli employee and the injury of three others. Nearby hospitals were put on alert, and ambulances rushed to the site. This is one of the most important generators in the Zionist entity. It runs on coal imported from South Africa.

Israeli radio reported that three Israelis were shot by unknowns; two were seriously wounded, the third slightly wounded. They were in a car on their way to Atsour Shalom settlement near Haifa, when they were attacked by machine gun fire.

In Jerusalem, a military patrol car was stoned. Two soldiers were wounded, one seriously enough to be hospitalized.

On Dec. 26, a mine exploded under an armed personnel carrier near Beit Hanoun settlement, west of Ramallah. The vehicle was completely destroyed and 15 Zionist border police killed or

wounded. The enemy radio acknowledged the incident and that 15 were wounded, but said that the vehicle overturned.

On the same day, a time bomb exploded in Tel Aviv's main square, near several first-class cafes and department stores. The Zionist police reported the explosion, and ambulances rushed to the scene. It was later admitted that the cause was a bomb, but only one woman settler was reported wounded. Arie Bibi, head of the Tel Aviv police, spoke on the radio, calling for alertness and that everyone should report suspicious packages. He said that most of the operations carried out were a result of homemade bombs.

On Dec. 27, an Egged bus was burnt near Yata in the Galilee. According to the Israeli radio, Katyusha rockets, launched from Lebanon, hit Zionist settlements twice, in the second day of such attacks.

On Dec. 28, a freedom fighter attacked a Zionist patrol car north of Gaza, with fire bombs, and escaped the area despite its being besieged by the Zionist forces. A curfew was imposed for two days on Shatti camp near Gaza. The Zionists stormed homes in an extensive search for guerrillas. There were a number of arrests.

On Dec. 29, a Zionist soldier was shot in the leg near Fawwar camp near Hebron (Al Khalil). The next day, the homes of four families were demolished; four persons were arrested and accused of belonging to the Palestinian revolution.

January 1986

On Jan. 1, a Zionist driver was stabbed and seriously wounded near Ramleh. He said that a passenger got into the car and tried to shoot him, but the gun would not fire, so he stabbed him in the back and chest.

On Jan. 2, Palestinian revolutionaries planted a bomb in a trash bin near Ramat Gan bus station, east of Tel Aviv. One Zionist was wounded and hospitalized, and there was extensive material damage. The same day a Mossad agent, Yacoub Baba Shafili, was shot dead at close range by a Palestinian freedom fighter, as he was driving his car near Lydda.

On Jan. 6, an Israeli military patrol car was attacked with fire bombs on the road between Bethlehem and Hebron.

On Jan. 8, a molotov cocktail was thrown at a border patrol car near Beit Sahour in the occupied West Bank. ▶